

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 3, 2009 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger,

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2009 was posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building, mentioned on the Township web site, and published in the newspapers Chatham Courier and Daily Record. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

S. Hoag motioned to approve the minutes from February 3, 2009, O. Raadam 2nd with all in favor.

DATES FOR 2009 AND JANUARY 2010.

Every first Tuesday: Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2, July - no meeting, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 in 2009, and Jan 5, 2010.

AWARDS

- NJ Clean Communities Award presented to CTEC on May 22, 2008 by the NJ Clean Communities Council for the Commission's Riverside Cleanup project. S.Hoag.
- ANJEC Environmental Awards for 2008 to CTEC: Environmental Achievement Award for Township energy and emission inventory performed by S. Carroll and K. Abbott. Environmental Achievement Commendation for Back2Tap program to limit use of plastic water bottles, directed by P. Collington and K. Abbott.

GRANT

The ESRI Corporation has awarded CTEC a free copy of ArcView for 2009. ArcView is the mapping software used to create the Township GIS website and CTEC's conservation easement map.

EVENTS

TECH ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FACILITY tour in Somerset is scheduled for Thursday March 5 at 11 a.m.

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL RALLY. March 7, 2009. Hyatt Regency New Brunswick. www.njconservation.org/rally. \$75 (CTEC will reimburse.)

ANJEC COMMISSIONER TRAINING COURSE. Sat., March 28, 9 AM - 12:30 PM, Roseland. Free for CTEC members. Call ANJEC at 973-539-7547 for info.

DODGE FOUNDATION GREEN BUILDING tour in Morristown. Monday, March 30, 7-9:30 p.m. 14 Maple Avenue, Morristown. This is an ANJEC workshop, free for CTEC members.

NJ CLEAN AIR COUNCIL Annual Public Hearing, April 1, 9:30 AM, NJDEP 401 E. State St., Trenton. Topic is Electric Generation Alternatives for New Jersey's Future: What is the Right Mix for Improving Air Quality and Reducing Climate Change?

NJ ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION. Annual conference. Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8 am-5 pm, Rutgers University School of Law, 123 Washington Street, Newark. "Clean, Green and Working."
www.cleanwateraction.org/nj/cleangreenworking.

PRESENTATION

"Kilowatt Ours", DVD on energy efficiency and renewables. S. Carroll.

REPORTS

Open Space Committee report. Reviewed four year plan. New Chairperson. Bike path almost complete. S. Hoag.

APPLICATION/LOI REVIEW

NEW. 446 GREEN VILLAGE ROAD. 2-12-09. Block 144, Lot 50. R-1 (3.5 acre residential) zone. Application to NJDEP for flood hazard area verification to verify the extent of flood hazard areas and riparian zones. S. Carroll approved to send letter to NJDEP S. Hoag 2nd with all in favor.

NEW. SHUNPIKE RECREATION FIELD. 1-21-09. Block 128, Lot 18. Application to NJDEP for flood hazard area verification, flood hazard area hardship exception for an individual permit, wetlands permit No. 11 (for construction of outfalls), wetlands special activity individual permit. Proposed activities are regrading existing landscaped lawns,

construction of a synthetic turf field. The application for hardship is for constructing the new stormwater discharge in the riparian buffer and exceeding the 6,000 S.F. area of disturbance of the riparian area. CTEC has previously sent a letter to the NJDEP regarding environmental issues on this property. S. Carroll motioned, S. Hoag 2nd with all in favor to send a new memo.

NEW. PSE&G PROPERTY ON SOUTHERN BOULEVARD. 1-20-09. Block 48.14, Lot 110. Verizon. Application to NJDEP for LOI, general permit and individual transition area waiver for construction in wetlands and transition areas for placement of structures. Possibly plan to add equipment to the transmission tower behind the gazebo. O. Raadam to review and draft letter to NJDEP with D. Stillinger. Suggest PSE&G repair scour hole behind gazebo.

CLOSED. 25 HICKORY PLACE. 12-1-09. Block 48.17, Lot 126.02. R-3C zone. Application to Planning Board from Chatham Hill Apartments to replace the swimming pool. Application has been withdrawn.

PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. 10-31-08. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval, two conditional use variances, hardship c(1) variance for steep slopes disturbance, to demolish 3 buildings and build two new buildings with associated parking areas. Impervious coverage of 16.1% is proposed, 15% allowed. 16,000 s.f. of slopes over 25% proposed to be disturbed, about 1,000 s.f. allowed.

Comment memo by S. Hoag sent to Board of Adjustment. Hearing is March 11.

PENDING. 7 SYCAMORE DRIVE. 4-30-08. Block 38, lot 42.05. Devco Associates, LLC. Application to Planning Board for amended final site plan approval for relief from limits of slope disturbance for a house already built. Fill was placed on the conservation easement and later rearranged. Planning Board hearing March 16.

CLOSED. ST. HUBERT'S. 9-23-08. Block 142, Lot 4.01. Application to Board of Adjustment for final site plan approval to expand existing facility. Conservation easement to NJDEP on wetlands and transition areas required as a condition. Applicant said it will record conservation easement deed to NJDEP before starting construction, as required by the NJDEP. Applicant has given a conservation easement to Chatham Township on the wetlands and transition areas. Monuments will be installed. Ordinance 2009-02 accepting the conservation easement has been passed.

PENDING. REXCORP. 3-31-08. Block 142 Lots 1 & 2 in Chatham Township, and Block 3303 Lot 2 in Madison. Application to NJDEP for Freshwater Wetlands Permits: GP#6 (activities disturbing up to 1 acre in isolated wetlands), GP#10A (very minor road crossing), Transition Area Averaging Plan Waiver, for a 2-phase development to create a pump-station, Giralda Farms Concert Series concert park, sanitary sewer lines, and office space. EC letters to NJDEP sent 7-18-07 and 5-6-08. Waiting for reply from NJDEP concerning vernal pools on the property.

PENDING. OAK KNOLL SCHOOL. 9-11-07. Public hearing was held on 9-11-07 concerning request to break the DEP conservation easement on the Oak Knoll school property at Hickory Tree in order to replace an existing stormwater pipe. DEP and Township engineer had no objection. NJDEP permit has been issued. CTEC is following this application.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

CTEC annual report for 2008 – S. Carroll motioned to accept O. Raadam 2nd with all in favor. ANJEC workshop - on new state wetlands and flood hazard area regulations held Monday, Feb. 9. S. Hoag, S. Carroll, D. Stillinger attended workshop. Environmental Commission's web page on township website has been revised - F. Esposito to explore EC's page for site managing.

Milton Avenue School Earth Day activities - Ruth Dekker, MAS, P. Collington, K. Abbott.

Education and Outreach subcommittee report - Green Fair – Sept. 12, joint effort with Chatham Borough; Working with schools regarding system wide recycling policy; Back2tap – filter in Lafayette School for reusing bottles; Construction booklet to go into packets for homeowners when going before Planning Board; Environmental Video – had 1st meeting with schools and volunteers.

Planning Board report – Banish working on project list, will direct Planning Board Members, suggesting rezoning various properties throughout township, reviewing bike path. L. Caprioglio.

Energy subcommittee report - BPU grant application was updated to be resent. ANJEC's application to the USEPA – expect response summer 2009. S. Carroll.

Electronics recycling events - Saturday May 2, 2009 and Saturday October 3, 2009. Need to finalize contractor.

Review New Jersey Conservation Foundation annual letter concerning their conservation easements on Green Village Road (block 144, lots 19.01 & 39, block 48.17, lot 130.01.) They propose putting up small signs along all the easement boundaries and planting a few shrubs along the one easement boundary where it has been mown. Could this be part of the Riverside Cleanup/Streamside Plant-Up project? D. Stillinger. Need more information regarding violations and vegetation plantings. Conservation easement project. Gunn property at 47 Ormont Road (this parcel was the subject of an easement violation notice to Mr. Gunn) has been sold. Review draft letter to new property owners with a conservation easement on their property regarding easement purpose and restrictions. S. Carroll motioned to accept, K. Abbott 2nd with all in favor of letter. Letter to be sent to new property owner. Commission discussed reviewing Mendham Township's policy regarding when property is sold that has a conservation easement, who sends letter notifying new owner regarding easement importance. D. Stillinger

All conservation easements are on a map on the Township GIS web site. Need to standardize a conservation easement agreement form. Linson data collection has been completed, monitoring information is in the conservation easement file drawer, data has been digitized. L. Caprioglio, S. Hoag, D. Stillinger.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2009. Remaining 13 letters were sent to property owners with conservation easements who were visited by John Linson in October thanking them for being good stewards and noting Mr. Linson's findings.
- December 2008: Letter from CTEC to ANJEC in support of ANJEC's application for a grant from the USEPA to develop model training and outreach materials for environmental commissions to use to reduce carbon emissions.
- December 2008: Evergreen Road to NJDEP and applicant, conservation easement findings letter to property owner Block 20 Lot 20, comment letter on Chatham Day School to Board of Adjustment.
- November 2008. 689 Shunpike Road to NJDEP, 494 Southern Boulevard to NJDEP.
- October 2008. 27 Pembroke Road to NJDEP, 11 Wickham Way to NJDEP, Green Village Firehouse to NJDEP.
- September 2008. Letter to Chatham Athletic Foundation suggesting alternatives to crumb rubber for artificial turf.
- May 2008. 47 & 51 Ormont Road to Planning Board, Verizon cell tower in Green Village to Board of Adjustment, 428 River Road to NJDEP, 49 Woodmont Drive to NJDEP, RexCorp re vernal pools to NJDEP.

MAIL RECEIVED (not including applications and notices mentioned above)

- Letter from Dick Plambeck, Chair of the Groundwater Protection Committee, introducing the current issue of the committee's newsletter.
- Invoice from ESRI Corporation charging \$0.00 for the mapping software ArcView for 2009.
- Flyer from a drinking water and well testing company. Charge is \$195 to test your drinking water.
- Request from the Chatham Township Mayor Kevin Tubbs for a report for 2008 and plan for 2009, to be presented at a March Township Committee meeting.
- Minutes of Long Hill EC and Chatham Borough EC, various newsletters, event announcements, and flyers.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli, Minutes Secretary